

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

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FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 SR-02 ORM-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2779

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 5573

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, RP

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT MARCOS ON US-GOP RELATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

REF: MANILA 5403

BEGIN SUMMARY: IN SPEECH APRIL 28, PRESIDENT MARCOS EXPRESSED VIEW THAT END RESULT OF RE-ASSESSMENT OR RE-NEGOTIATION PROCESS WITH US WOULD BE "AGREEMENT TO SATISFACTION OF BOTH PARTIES". MARCOS' MODERATE SENTIMENTS REFLECTED IN DAILY EXPRESS EDITORIAL SAME DATE. ABSENCE OF CUSTOMARY VALENCIA ANTI-AMERICAN DIA-TRIBE IN TODAY'S BULLETIN AND PROMINENCE MEDIA HAVE GIVEN TO PRESIDENT'S SPEECH AND TO GOP DECISION "RELAX" RESTRICTIONS ON INCOMING VIETNAM REFUGEES AT USG BEHEST SUGGEST MARCOS CONSIDERS RE-ASSESSMENT AND RE-NEGOTIATION PUBLICITY CAM-CONFIDENTIAL

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PAIGN HAS ACHIEVED ITS PURPOSE AND IT IS TIME FOR QUIET

DIALOGUE. END SUMMARY.

1. IN SPEECH TO TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE ON LABOR CODE APRIL 28, IN WHICH HE VOWED TO PROTECT LOCAL AND FOREIGN INVESTMENTS IN PHILIPPINES, PRESIDENT MARCOS SAID HIS MOVE TO REASSESS PHILIPPINE SECURITY TIES WITH US IS AIMED AT ESTABLISHING NATIONAL SECURITY AND STABILITY IN CONTEXT OF LATEST INDO-CHINESE DEVELOPMENTS. MARCOS SAID HE WAS CERTAIN US AS A "STAUNCH AND OLD ALLY" WOULD UNDERSTAND "HIS NEW ORIENTATION AND SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR DIFFICULT SITUATION AS WE SYMPATHIZE WITH THEIRS". PRESIDENT, LIKENED POSSIBLE NEGOTIATIONS WITH US TO "TWO BROTHERS SITTING DOWN BUT REALIZING THE NEW LIMITATIONS THAT ARE IMPOSED BY CIRCUMSTANCES" AND EXPRESSED BELIEF "WE WILL BE ABLE TO SIT DOWN AND COME INTO AN AGREEMENT TO THE SATISFACTION OF BOTH PARTIES". HE ASSURED HIS AUDIENCE THERE WAS NO IMMEDIATE EXTERNAL DANGER TO PHILIPPINES BUT THAT "WE SHALL PREPARE FOR ANY CONTINGENCY".

2. ADVERTING TO ASEAN SUMMIT WHICH HE HAS SUGGESTED, MARCOS SAID IT IS NOT INTENDED TO CHANGE THE PLANS AND PROJECTIONS OF THE COUNTRY. "THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES. THE AIM IS STILL SECURITY; WHAT IS BEST FOR THE COUNTRY IRRESPECTIVE OF SACRIFICE YOU WILL KNOW, WE WILL NOTIFY YOU, BUT I DO NOT BELIEVE THAT THERE WILL BE ANY CRITICAL CHANGES IN THE PRESENT SITUATION". PRESIDENT SAID: "IT IS OUR HOPE THAT AS WE MOVE FORWARD PRUDENTLY, CAUTIOUSLY, CHOOSING OUR COURSE WITH AN EYE TO NOTHING BUT THE NATIONAL INTEREST, WE WILL BE ABLE TO ISOLATE OURSELVES FROM THE ANIMOSITIES, THE CONFLICTS THAT COULD TRIGGER ANOTHER KIND OF WAR."

3. MARCO'S PSEECH TO LABOR GROUP CAME SAME DAY DAILY EXPRESS RAN MODERATE EDITORIAL HEADED "US COMMITMENT NEEDS REVIEW". EDITORIAL NOTES THAT EVENTS IN INDOCHINA HAVE POINTED OUT US NEED FOR BASES BUT ASKS WHETHER PHILIPPINES NEEDS THE BASES. WHATEVER THE ANSWER, EDITORIAL SUGGESTS US MUST REALIZE THE INDEPENDENT STANCE OF ITS ALLIES "WHICH CAN NO LONGER BE TAKEN FOR GRANTED". EDITORIAL NOTES THAT US HAS DEEP RESERVOIR OF GOOD WILL IN PHILIPPINES AND "THERE IS NO QUIBBLING AT ALL WHEN ONE SAYS THAT PHILIPPINES IS ONE OF ITS CLOSEST FRIENDS". EXPRESS EDITORIAL CONCLUDES THAT

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DEVELOPMENTS IN REGION CRY FOR CLEARER DEFINITION OF US COMMITMENT AND IT IS PRECISELY THIS WHICH PRES. MARCOS IS CALLING FOR. BALANCED EXPRESS EDITORIAL IS IN CONSIDERABLE CONTRAST TO APRIL 28 ORIENT NEWS EDITORIAL HEADED, "THE NEW ASIAN SITUATION". EDITORIALIST (PRESUMABLY KARIMA POLOTAN) WRITES THAT "IN REGION FILLED WITH THE AWARENESS OF MUTUAL DEPENDENCE, THERE IS NO ROOM FOR COUNTRIES LIKE THE US WHICH ARE MOTIVATED BY THE DESIRE TO PLAY GOD".

SHE SUGGESTS "AMERICA WOULD DO WELL TO LET ASIA LIVE ALONE FROM NOW ON, TO TRANSLATE IN ITS OWN THE CONSCIOUSNESS OF ASIAN INTERDEPENDENCE INTO A SHIELD OF ITS OWN DEFENSE AND SECURITY". INTERESTINGLY ENOUGH, REGIME TOADY VALENCIA WHOSE COLUMNS OVER LAST TWO WEEKS HAVE CONSTITUTED ONE LONG ANTI-AMERICAN SCREED ESCHEWED FOREIGN POLICY IN APRIL 29 COLUMN. PRESS ALSO REPORTING PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO "RELAX" RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY OF EVACUEES FROM VIETNAM AT REQUEST OF AMBASSADOR.

4. COMMENT. PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON NATIONAL SECURITY AND US-GOP RELATIONS CAME IN SPEECH IN WHICH HE PROMISED THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH US, THERE WILL BE NO CHANGES IN GOP'S BASIC ECONOMIC POLICIES ESPECIALLY ON FOREIGN AND LOCAL INVESTMENTS. PRESIDENT'S JUDICIOUS LANGUAGE ON RE-ASSESSMENT AND RE-NEGOTIATIONS IS IN STARK CONTRAST TO APOCALYPTIC MANNER MEDIA PLAYED APRIL 25 FOREIGN POLICY COUNCIL REVIEW OF US-GOP RELATIONS (REFTEL). MARCOS' LATEST SPEECH, HOWEVER, IS ENTIRELY CONSONANT WITH WHAT HE HAS TOLD US PRIVATELY.

5. WHILE MARCOS HAS PUT LID BACK ON PANDORA'S BOX AND RE-ESTABLISHED MORE DELIBERATE AND REASSURING PUBLIC POSTURE, THE ISSUE IS OBVIOUSLY STILL VERY MUCH ALIVE. EVENTS IN VIETNAM, AND PRESENCE LARGE NUMBERS OF REFUGEES HERE HAVE SENT DEEP SHIVER THROUGH PHILIPPINES THAT WILL REQUIRE MORE THAN PUBLIC RELATIONS MANAGEMENT. NOW THAT MARCOS HAS TURNED OFF PUBLIC LAMENTATIONS, WE ASSUME GOP WILL CONTINUE WITH QUIETER STUDY OF SECURITY RELATIONS IN BOTH CONTEXT OF US-PHILIPPINE RELATIONS AND OF PHILIPPINE-ASIAN AND ASEAN RELATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, PRESS COMMENTS, SPEECHES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 APR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MANILA05573
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750149-1116
From: MANILA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975048/aaaaagvm.tel
Line Count: 146
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 MANILA 5403
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <14 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT MARCOS ON US-GOP RELATIONS CINCPAC FOR POLAD
TAGS: PINT, RP, US, (MARCOS, FERDINAND)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006